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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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10-15-1920

## Justice (Vol. 2, Iss. 42)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job. 27.6.

# JUSTICE

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

Vol. II, No. 42.

New York, Friday, October 15, 1920.

Price: 2 Cents

## PROTECTIVE ASS'N PROVOKES DISPUTE WITH NEW YORK CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

As reported in "Justice" several weeks ago, the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union has been conducting strikes against some cloak firms, members of the "Manufacturers' Protective Association," largely for the reason that these firms had refused to pay to their workers the scales determined upon in January by Governor Smith's Commission.

The agreement with the Protective Association gives the Union the full right of call and conduct strikes against their members, and these strikes are, therefore, perfectly legitimate from that point of view. Instead of exercising its influence upon their members not to prolong these strikes and to come to terms with the Union, the Association has been doing everything in its power to aid the struck firms, contrary to the spirit of its agreement with the Union. Moreover, the leaders of the "Protective" have addressed a drastic letter to the Union demanding that the strikes against their members be called off at once.

On Thursday last, October 7th, the "Protective Association" delivered the following ultimatum to the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union and to the General Office of the International:

The Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Gentlemen:

During the past four months, your organization has instigated and maintained numerous strikes in the shops of our members, openly, boastfully and in flagrant violation of our agreement.

Although ample time and opportunity has been given you there appears to be no disposition on your part to correct this condition. The Association therefore demands that you officially call off the strikes and withdraw the pickets within forty-eight hours.

Should you fail to do so, we will conclude that you have broken the agreement and the machinery provided by the contract for adjustment of grievances will no longer function.

Very truly yours,

M. R. SILVERMAN,  
Chairman, Executive Committee.

The 48 hours given in this ultimatum to the Union have nevertheless, passed without any particular consequences following the sudden discovery by the Employers' Association of the "flagrant violation of our agreement." On Friday, October 8, the Joint Board and the International forwarded to the Association the following reply:

The Cloak, Suit and Skirt Mfs. Protective Association, Gentlemen:

We have your letter of the 6th inst. and note that you charge us

with a "flagrant violation" of the collective agreement between our respective organizations through the alleged instigation of strikes in shops of your members.

We do not at this time deem it necessary to reply to your charges on the merits, as they constitute only one phase of a larger and more fundamental dispute between us.

In order to make our contention perfectly clear and to leave a final and definite record of our position, we take the liberty of briefly reciting the leading points of our controversy.

On the 29th day of May, 1919, your Association and our Union entered into a written agreement, which among other provisions fixed the minimum wage scale of the different classes of workers employed in the shops of your members.

Upon a subsequent demand for a wage increase the question was submitted to a special board appointed by the Governor of the State, which Board granted certain horizontal wage increases to all classes of workers. Since both sides had agreed to abide by the decision of the board, the award of the latter had the effect of amending our original agreement in the same way as if it had been amended by direct mutual consent.

Your Association practically nullified the decision of the board by putting upon it an arbitrary interpretation which would deprive large numbers of our members of all benefits of the increase. We thereupon requested you to join us in requesting the Governor's board to pass upon the dis-

puted interpretation, but you refused to do so. Your Association has thus doubly violated the provisions of our collective agreement and closed the door of fair adjustment to us.

We can, of course, not allow ourselves to be placed in a position of permitting your Association to coolly disregard vital provisions of our agreement in favor of the workers, while insisting upon strict performance of provisions favorable to the employers.

We are, however, quite ready to enter into an arrangement equally fair to both sides, and in that spirit we submit the following proposition:

We shall see to it that all workers on strike against any member of your Association immediately resume work on condition that you agree to submit to the Governor's board the disputed questions of interpretation of its decision. As far as the Union is concerned, we agree in advance to accept the board's interpretation of its award, whether it be in our favor or against us.

Very truly yours,

For the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,

MORRIS SIGMAN,

First Vice-President.

For the Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions,

L. PINKOVSKY,

President.

ISRAEL FEINBERG

Manager.

The action of the Protective Association in forwarding an ultimatum.  
(Continued on Page 8)

## Cloakmakers' Socialist Committee Conducts Rousing Campaign

The Cloakmakers' Union of New York has never taken such an active part in the Socialist campaign as this year. It appears as if the entire machinery of this powerful organization is working with might and main for the Socialist candidates, particularly for the election of London and Hillquit to Congress and for the standard bearer of the party, Eugene V. Debs.

A "Cloakmakers' Campaign Committee" with Brothers Braslaw as manager, Langer as secretary and Kaplowitz as treasurer, has been formed, and a campaign of many-sided activities has been launched. The Board of Officials of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, comprising all business agents and other officials, has elected Brother Saul Metz, the manager of the "American Association" office of it at

the Joint Board, as its campaign manager for the 12th Congressional District.

The lists distributed in the cloak shops are already beginning to show returns. The first few days have yielded a thousand dollars, and judging by the enthusiasm with which the request for financial aid for the campaign is received by the workers in the shops, the results will be very gratifying. A corps of speakers have been organized comprising every officer of standing and influence in the Union, and halls and trucks have been engaged until the end of the campaign for meetings and rallies.

In brief, the Cloakmakers' motto in this campaign is: "Hillquit and London must receive the vote, get it honestly counted, and go to Washington next November!"

## BOSTON LADIES TAILORS MAKING STEADY GAINS

The striking ladies' tailors of Boston who left their shops two weeks ago to enforce a raise in wages and other working standards have been making steady progress and settlements have already been concluded with a number of employers.

Brother Abraham Snyder, who is leading this strike, reports that it is a matter of a few days before the strike will be over. There is not a strikebreaker to be had in Boston, and the few girls that remained in some of the shops cannot do any of the responsible work, and even these girls are expected to come down soon and join the strikers.

Among the prominent local shops that have settled it is well to mention the fashionable firms of Driscoll and Hickson.

## New York Locals Tender Vice-President Lefkovits Welcome Home Dinner

Upon the initiative of a number of friends and the General Office, a welcome home dinner will be tendered Vice President Lefkovits on the event of his return from Europe where he went as one of the delegates of our International to the Convention of the International Clothing Workers Federation at Copenhagen, Denmark.

The dinner will take place at Conte's Restaurant, 432 Lafayette Street, on Friday, October 15, at 7 P. M. and will be attended by delegates from every International local in New York and a number of others prominent in the labor movement of this city.

Brother Lefkovits' travel impressions, and information gathered by him in the course of his sojourn in Central Europe will begin appearing in early issues of Justice.

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# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

## In the Wake of the Campaign

**T**HE political campaign of 1920 stubbornly refuses to come to life. Attempts to revive it, to arouse the interest of the general public to its issues, real and imaginary, have so far proved futile.

On the Democratic side, coupled with the saddening recognition of the fact that their chances of electing a president are nil, these efforts have been particularly meagre. They amount to a puerile endeavor, from time to time, to justify the Wilson policies had his administration by the three-bare excuse of "humanitarianism." The League of Nations, that loving of Wall Street, the New York Times, and similar "humanitarian" agencies, is presented to the weary American electorate as the savior of America's honor and America's prosperity.

If the eight years of strife and stress have brought to the fore of political life in America no bigger figures than the mediocre standard bearers of Democracy and Republicanism, as personified in the campaign of 1920, it is a telling index of the general poverty of our public life. The masses of the people, in the cities and on the farms, are in an intensely clamorous and inquiring attitude of mind; but the old parties that are supposed to be the vehicle of expression for these masses, have, within three weeks of Election Day, still nothing to offer, nothing to say about the great issues that demand solution, ceaselessly, relentlessly.

This campaign will, nevertheless, in our estimation, be of significance insofar as it will record for the first time the tremendous volume of protest that has been accumulating during the past years, and will find concrete expression in the vote for the Socialist Party, the Farmer-Labor Party, and the Non-Partisan League. 1920 is bound to be a year of awakening, a year of articulate protest. If the campaign has tried our nerves by its shallowness and lifelessness, we may, at least, reasonably hope that the morning after election will bring to us the cheerful news that hundreds of thousands of new voters have for the first time cast off the haze and the spell of old party adherence, and have allied themselves permanently with the new, forward-looking currents in American political life.

## The Russian-Polish Armistice

**T**HE big foreign news of the week, of course, is the armistice between the Polish and Soviet Armies on all fronts. The Poles, whose advance into Russia could go beyond certain limits, have recognized this fact and agreed to sign terms of a preliminary peace.

It is hardly necessary to enter into a discussion of these terms. According to press dispatches these are very favorable to the Poles. They appear to be, in a territorial sense, far more advantageous to Poland than the original terms proposed by the Peace Conference. They are to give Poland in addition a substantial corridor through Lithuania with Russia. It is, nevertheless, reasonably certain that these terms do not flagrantly violate the ethnographic rights of large Russian masses living within these new boundaries.

To the rest of the world, to the intensely interested and eager labor masses in particular, this end of hostilities between Russia and Poland means the final opportunity to have their rights as to the workings and stability of the present Russian regime solved. With the removal of the military strain from the life of Russia, the question as to whether Communism, or Bolshevism, in Russia, can function and work under more or less normal circumstances, will be answered.

## Haywood's Conviction Upheld

**T**HE news that the verdict which found William D. Haywood and his 33 co-defendants of the Industrial Workers of the World guilty of conspiracy to violate the War Time Acts was affirmed by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago, slipped through the columns of the press last week without much comment. It is, nevertheless, an occurrence of great significance, and it reflects the still inflexible disposition on the part of the courts to treat political war-time offenders as if the war had not ended, and to heap vengeance upon those who have fallen under the ban of the special war-time legislation several years ago.

Unless an appeal to the highest court, the Supreme Court of the U. S., is granted, it looks as if these 94 working-class defendants will have to go to jail and begin serving the long terms imposed upon them two years ago. And this, in spite of the convincing proof presented by the defense showing the unusual bias which prevailed at the time of the trial, the unfair treatment accorded to them during its progress and the consideration of the past fact nature of their alleged offenses.

The overwhelming majority of the workers in the United States do not share the economic and organization views of Haywood and his co-defendants. But they resent to the utmost their persecution and the bitter and unrelenting attitude of the powers that be towards these maligned and abused workers.

## The Brussels Finance Conference

**T**HERE has been sitting at Brussels, Belgium, for the past two weeks, an International Financial Conference, the first of its kind to assemble since the end of the great war. Practically every country of importance in the world was represented at this Conference through men prominent in finance and commerce.

This Conference would probably be of little interest to organized labor, — except for the outstanding fact that through all its deliberations it took no notice of the great events and changes that have convulsed the world and are still fastening in their grip the destinies of Europe. The Conference discussed at length the problem of international credit, of regulation of governmental borrowing and monetary standards. It heeded none of the great problems that underlie the present upheaval in Europe and the world over, the sharp antagonism between capital and labor, the staggering cost of living and the breakdown of old political beliefs and machinery. The only sort of a

reference to these problems was a mild affirmation "that the world cannot afford to spend 20 per cent of all national revenues upon armaments and preparations for war."

## Landlords Fight New Rent Laws

**T**HE ink has hardly dried upon the new laws signed by Governor Smith, laws which have given some respite to the hard-pressed tenantry of New York, as the real estate interests of New York have formed a fresh combine to attack the constitutionality of the new rent laws.

A big legal battle is going to be staged in the near future, in the course of which, it is confidently expressed, the gains made by the tenants of New York in their late skirmish with the landlords, will be completely wiped out. It is reported that a formidable array of legal talent has been retained to defend the case of the hard-driven landlord and to extract him from the "serious situation" in which the new laws have placed him. Of a sudden it was "discovered" that the housing emergency is a matter of the past and that these are

plenty of vacant apartments to be had everywhere. Incidentally, it is added, that these apartments are not for people of average means, but for those who can afford to pay \$100 and upward per month.

The organization of the "Real Estate Interests of New York" has come out with a cry in the press, in which they state that as long as the butcher, and the baker, and the clothier are not restrained by the legislature, the postulant should not be made to bear the burden. Of course, their pleas will fall upon the ears of a very sympathetic public.

And yet one can never tell. Constitutionality is a very evasive and flexible word, and glib arguments of lawyers have been known to convert many a law with a humane element in it into a negation of the spirit and even the letter of the basic law under which we live. So the workers of New York need not be surprised if one nice morning, in the near future, they will wake up to find that the few favorable enactments of the special session of the legislature in September, 1920, have been wiped off the statute books by a court decree.

# AMONG THE CLOAKMAKERS OF MONTREAL

By JOSEPH SCHUBERT

The Montreal cloakmakers have not had such a poor season like the present one in a long time. Were it not for the strong union and the system of week work, it is certain that the old evils of working under the scale and of seeking "favors" from the bosses would have returned to our midst.

Already, at the beginning of the season, we saw that something must be done to lessen the hardships of our members and to solve the local unemployment problem as quickly as possible. We conferred with the manufacturers and informed them that the unemployed must be distributed evenly among all shops as they were legitimately belonged to the industry and have dropped out from the shops in the belief that the season would be a good one and there was no sense in their camping in the shops, in quest of some incidental jobs during the slack season.

After long debating the employers agreed to take in the unemployed. It turned out, however, to be more of an agreement in principle than in reality, as they still found ourselves in a peculiar situation. Various plans were suggested to relieve this unemployment. It was proposed that a tax be levied on all those employed and to give this money to those out of work; others suggested a 40- and a 36-hour work-week. The Joint Board conceived, however, that all these plans were not of immediate practical value and decided that all the unemployed must be put to work in the shops in accordance with arrangements made by the office and that our members share the work with each other.

It was not, of course, an easy matter to accomplish. There was opposition from some employers as from some of the workers. But it was put through, nevertheless, and today there is not a person without a job in our industry in Montreal. It is true they do not work full time but the work is done by everybody in equal shares. It has strengthened the organization, and it has given our employers food for thought.

We have on hand no bi-

stration case of unusual interest.

We have signed an agreement last May with the local employers. One of the points in that agreement calls for the establishment of a Board of Arbitration to pass upon all disputes arising between the union and the employers' association. One of the first cases submitted to the chairman of this Board, Prof. Charles Barnes, was a demand by the union for a flat increase of eight dollars per week for every person in the trade, such increase to become retroactive to June 1, 1920.

The manufacturers argued that the prices which they were paying were already ruinous to their business and demanded time to prove their contention before the public and the workers. Of course, we agreed to this as we had in view that the advance was to be retroactive. The matter, nevertheless, dragged on until September. The employers engaged auditors and accountants, and, finally, after 3 months' of arduous labor, we met on Sept. 9th at the office of the impartial chairman. They brought along a heap of records and wage charts, according to which they would have us believe, the workers in the local cloak shops have received an advance of 172 per cent in wages and that unless we agree to a reduction in wages, our employers would have to go out of business.

Well, the charts were attractive enough, indeed, and the figures were imposing, but to us, who knew the facts, they were a little conviction. According to their calculations each cloakmaker was, at least, independently wealthy. We set to work analyzing their charts, and, of course, we soon found out that their averages did not include the poorer or average grades of workers, but represented the cream of the few highest paid employees in each shop. The impartial chairman, who is an expert in these matters, quickly agreed with us. He asked the manufacturers to furnish him a list of names and earnings of each worker in the trade, leaving the computation of the figures to him directly.

On the other hand, we have

# Our Membership; The N. Y. Cloakmakers

By ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG  
Director, Record and Research Department, I. L. O. W. U.

Following established practice, the Department of Records and Research conducted a census of the membership of the various locals affiliated with our International, covering the period July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1920. The standing of the members was examined solely with regard to their payments of dues. The needs of the General Office, as well as of the New York Joint Board at the present time, did not warrant a survey of the distribution of the members according to craft, nationality, sex, age, etc., which data was obtained at the last census of January 1, 1920, and which could not have changed very appreciably during the past six months.

The results of the survey which will be submitted in the form of reports to the various Locals, Joint Boards, and Secretary-Treasurer Baroff, are too extensive and bulky for reproduction in the columns of this journal. At the request of the editor of Justice, the material obtained from the census will be outlined and the numerous tables appended to the summarized report. The entire report as prepared for publication will be printed in several instalments, each issue containing an account of the standing of the locals of different sections of the country where our International has subdivisions.

For the first instalment we shall take the locals affiliated with the Joint Board of the New York Cloak, Skirt & Beefeckers' Union, which is the single strongest organization in the International. The Joint Board includes Locals 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 17, 21, 23, 35, 45, 48, 64 and 82.

## Extent of Dues-Paying Members

An examination of the standing of the members of the thirteen different locals affiliated with the New York Joint Board showed that there were 3,079 members who made their last payments some time during the months of July, August and September, 1919; there were 412 who were credited with payments during the months of October, November and December, 1919; 23,673 paid their dues during the months of

January, February and March, 1920; and 20,947 made their payments during April, May and June of this year. In addition, 1,572 are credited with having made their payments in advance, i.e., beyond the month of June. Accordingly, the total number of those who paid their dues during the 52 weeks of the census year ending June 30, 1920, was 53,098.

It should be noted that the present census was the last during which a member was considered a dues-paying member if he had paid some time during the 52 weeks of the census year. According to the amended provision of the Constitution, good standing membership will be based upon payments during 26 weeks prior to the census. It is hoped that by the next census which will be January 1, 1921, the entire membership will be acquainted with this change, and none of the members will be in arrears more than 26 weeks.

## Extent of Good Standing Members

The figures given above represent the total number of dues-paying members in the locals affiliated with the New York Joint Board by quarters and for the entire census year. If we, however, consider the number of those who have made their payments during the last 26 weeks of the census year, we find that 45,892, or 86 per cent of the total, were in that category, and 22,219, or 42 per cent of the total, paid their dues during the last 13 weeks preceding the census. These two classes of members may be considered as representing the good standing membership of the locals. If we should compare the standing of the various 13 locals regarding the number of their members who come within the 26-week and 13-week periods, respectively, we find that the percentage of members who owe for more than 26 weeks varies from 727 per cent in Locals 23 and 64, to 93 per cent in Locals 1 and 35. A comparison of the percentage of good standing members based upon the 13-week period shows a different grouping of the locals. The percentage varies

from 31 per cent in Local 1 to 58 per cent in Locals 35 and 82. Thus it will be noted that while Local 1 heads the list among the locals whose membership is in arrears not more than 26 weeks, it is at the bottom of the list of the Locals whose membership is in arrears not more than 13 weeks.

The following table gives the distribution of the locals according to the percentage of good standing members, based upon the 26- and 13-week periods respectively:

Number	Local	Percentage of Good Standing Members Based Upon 26 Weeks Period
I.	1.	31
	35.	58
II.	9.	90
III.	3.	88
	17.	88
	82.	88
IV.	48.	86
V.	11.	85
VI.	21.	83
VII.	45.	80
VIII.	10.	78
IX.	23.	72
	64.	727

Number	Local	Percentage of Good Standing Members Based Upon 13 Weeks Period
I.	35.	58
	82.	58
II.	11.	54
III.	9.	52
IV.	21.	49
V.	9.	45
	45.	45
VI.	48.	43
VII.	10.	39
	64.	39
VIII.	23.	35
IX.	17.	34
X.	1.	31

	Number of dues paying members on May 2, 1919	Number of dues paying members on June 30, 1920
Locals		
1	9476	10888
3	1299	1349
9	5522	7625
10	5108	5266
11	1576	2299
21	2923	3192
17	192	343
23	4541	5489
35	5011	6470
45	186	415
48	4416	8675
64	325	362
82	309	725

Notwithstanding the depression in the industry which had continued for the past several months, the various locals affiliated with the New York Joint Board have not only maintained their strength, but have, in fact, increased their membership. This increase shows that the healthy phalanx of membership has not

## Released Members

As was stated above, all members who had made payments for dues during the 52 weeks ending June 30, 1920, were considered dues-paying members of the Union. Those who were found in arrears over 52 weeks were released for non-payment of dues, and the various locals were notified to this effect and asked to check the list of members so released with their own record. In addition, the files of the Record Department were cleared of all those members who were suspended by the Locals for various reasons during the past year. Thus we find that the number of suspended members for non-payment of dues during the 52 weeks was 2,715 or 9 per cent of the total membership for the census year ending May 3, 1919. The number of those who left the locals for various reasons, i.e., by withdrawal, expulsion, transfer, etc., totaled 4,060, or 10 per cent of the total membership, according to the previous census. The total number of released members on June 30, 1920, was 6,805, or 20 per cent of the membership of the 13 locals on May 3, 1919.

## Growth of Membership

The following table gives the total dues-paying membership of the censuses of May 3, 1919, and June 30, 1920, and the percentage increase during the two censuses. Thus, according to this table, the total dues-paying membership for the year ending May 3, 1919, was 40,884, and that of the year ending June 30, 1920, 53,098, or an increase of 12,214. The percentage increase of the membership of the present census over that of last year, is 30 per cent. If we compare the total membership as obtained in the last census with that estimated according to the census of January 1, 1920, which credited the Union with a membership of 52,135, we note an increase of 963, or 2 per cent, during the last six months prior to the census.

laid before the chairman the following facts and arguments:

1. The minimum scale of wages in Montreal is the smallest of any scale prevailing in any cloak centre in the United States and Canada.

2. Our workers are employed on an average of 37 weeks during the year, yet they must be attached to their factories all year round.

3. The industry must take care of its workers and their earnings must serve as a basis for their all-year-round sustenance.

4. In every other cloak centre, workers receive pay for five legal holidays, except in Montreal.

5. Living conditions in Montreal are much higher owing to the unusually severe and long winter. 6. \$42.25 is the average living budget for a family of five. The cloakmakers do not earn that much all year round.

7. If the manufacturers want us to consider their occasional losses, the workers would like to be considered with regard to their prof-

its, an arrangement which, we are informed, they are not as yet ready to concede.

We have not yet received any decision from the impartial chairman, but hope for the best. I have mentioned that our request for an advance was supplemented with a demand that this advance be made retroactive. It is quite likely that when our employers will have to give our workers back pay, they will raise considerable objection, but we are ready and able to make them live up to the decision of the impartial chairman and to maintain the prestige of the union at any cost.

We have had a considerable amount of trouble in the raincoat trade in Montreal lately. The local raincoat employers have apparently set their minds on breaking up the local organization. We, on the other hand, are ready to defend the conditions in the shops which have been gained through so much sacrifice and expense at all hazards. I shall write to you about it at the next opportunity.

only not been disturbed by the abnormal conditions in the industry, but has, in fact, been strengthened. As the conditions improve, the standing of our locals with regard to percentage of good standing members will naturally improve accordingly. It is to this we must look forward.

(To be continued)

## CLOAKMAKERS EMPLOYED IN "PROTECTIVE" SHOPS

All workers employed in shops belonging to members of the Manufacturers' Protective Association are requested to continue bringing their complaints to the office of the Union as heretofore. Shop meetings are also to be called as usual. Report every occurrence in your shops to the office of the Union without delay.

For the Joint Board,

J. RUBIN, Manager,  
PROTECTIVE DIVISION.

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office, 21 Union Square, New York, N. Y. Tel. Stuyvesant 1125.  
R. SCHLESINGER, President. S. YANOFFSKY, Editor.  
A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas. E. LIEBERMAN, Business Mgr.  
MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor  
Subscription price paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. II, No. 42. Friday, October 15, 1920

Entered as Second Class matter April 14, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the act of August 3, 1912.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103 of Act of October 2, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

## EDITORIALS

### WORTHLESS TESTIMONY PLUS FOUL ADVICE

The "reformers" in Local No. 25 have suddenly found a new champion.

He is no other than our erudite Mr. Isaac Hourwich, a gentleman who, in the course of a free lance career, had happened, at one time, to have been placed on the payroll of the New York "Cloakmakers' Union, from which he was subsequently severed upon grounds of unfitness, and for which act the Cloakmakers' organization and the International Union has earned his eternal hatred and damnation.

In an article which appeared last week in a New York daily, Mr. Hourwich pours venom upon the International and its leaders for having decided against the scheme to quasi-"sovietize" Local No. 25. His chief weapon of offense consists of the disingenuous method of calling names and casting slurs, invective and innuendo,—time-honored methods with this inveterate enemy of our organization.

Well, insofar as we are concerned, we desire to state in all sincerity that rather than to become incensed over this repetition of his antics, we feel a bit sympathetic towards him. This International Union, and the Cloakmakers' body in particular, have always been an obsession with Mr. Hourwich, pressing, as it were, heavily on his brains; and while normally an able and thinking person, one has only to mention in his presence the Cloakmakers' organization, or anyone whom he holds responsible for the rather sad and early finish of his career with our Union, that our erudite friend parts company with logic, sees everything "red" and his pen drips forth abuse and calumny.

Take the situation in Local No. 25. There had been presented to the General Executive Board of our Union certain matters in connection with an act of the Executive Board of Local No. 25. A babe in arms would know that the International elects its General Executive Board, and a president, for the express purpose of taking up and deciding upon matters which might come before it in the course of the activities of the organization. This is the prime function of the General Executive Board. This body is the supreme instance of authority within our International, and its members are the chosen arbiters whose duty it is to decide upon disputes and grievances brought before them. Now, of course, Mr. Hourwich knows this as well as anybody else. But does that deter him in any way from raising the yell of "bureaucracy"; from erecting a straw man and a scare crowd out of these perfectly legitimate functions of this body elected by the convention of our International? Not in the least. In his own little back-yard war against our Union and his pathetic desire to hurt and injure, any means, not matter how comfortable, is good.

Again, it is palpably obvious that the action of the promoters of the new scheme on the Executive Board of Local No. 25 amounts to downright usurpation of the entire authority of the local to themselves. Such a brazen attempt to rob the thousands upon thousands of members of that local of the right to vote and to govern themselves, which have been expected to arouse the ire of a sterling democrat like Mr. Hourwich. The argument that because these thousands have not come lately to election meetings that they can be deprived with impunity of this right of self-government, could not, of course, be advanced by anyone except an avowed enemy of popular rule. We can just imagine how this self-same Mr. Hourwich, had he happened to be an ordinary rank-and-file waistmaker,—not a shop chairman at that,—how he would have yelled to heaven had he been deprived of his voice and vote through a "scientific sovietization" of the kind his brand-new disciples would impose upon Local No. 25.

In his latest demagogic stunt, Mr. Hourwich speaks with serious mien about his old-time advocacy of shop chairmen's meetings. One unfamiliar with the working of our Union could be led to believe from this that this institution of shop chairmen's meeting is a strange and novel one within our International. The generally known truth of the matter is that our International has, for years, done everything within its power to promote this organization feature and has recognized its significance and value. This thought was pointed out with unmistakable clarity in the decision of the Board in this very situation of Local No. 25. The advisory and consultative capacity of shop chairmen's meetings was not only welcomed, but has always been sought and cultivated. It is only the attempted assumption of powers of usurpation on the part of a certain group that has called forth the veto of the General Executive Board, a right which it exercised under the powers granted to it by our convention.

To this Mr. Hourwich remains designedly blind, just as he, in his bitter spitefulness, keeps on harping upon our adherence to a "generation-old constitution" regardless of the fact that he knows full well that our by-laws are being practically rewritten every two years at our conventions and that at these conventions every voice is being heard in the open and every suggestion, every proposal, receives a most thorough and courteous hearing. He knows, in addition, that only 5 months ago, at Chicago, these new-fangled "Sovietizers" had the fullest opportunities to advocate their "vital reforms" on the floor of our convention. Not a voice, not a word, not a resolution of theirs was ever heard there or advanced in that direction.

We say it again, the periodic eruptions of Mr. Hourwich against our International are in themselves of little import to us. What matters, however, is the fact that his pen is always employed to mislead and encourage the blunderings of some deluded and irresponsible young people, to "lead" them for a while, until he sees fit to leave them in the lurch, while he retires to his learned hideouts. Let us recall to them the fate of that group in Local No. 1, three years ago, whom Mr. Hourwich has led and counselled. Where are these now? What do they amount to in the labor movement at present? Poor deluded young fellows who, if not for this foul counsel, could have been of real service to the labor movement.

Let this be a timely warning to some of our young men and women in Local No. 25. Don't let yourself be misled like your predecessors in Local No. 1 by this ridiculous chingra, of beginning to "sovietize" industry in America with the dressmaking trade in New York, a scheme which would probably be welcomed with the greatest eagerness by your employers and your other enemies. Fortunately, the International will maintain its utmost vigilance and will not allow you to kill in cold blood,—no matter what your intentions,—the great Waist and Dressmakers' Union. The International is responsible for the life and prosperity of that Union, and your ill-fated caprices have no room within the fold of the International.

The International has acted in a spirit of tolerance and forbearance toward you. Instead of issuing summary and strict orders, it argued, it pleaded and it pointed out to you the errors of your planned actions. It still appeals to you! It is not too late yet. The wrong can still be righted, and you might yet be of service to the labor movement and to your Union. Do not destroy forever your usefulness and your value to your Union which you claim is so dear to your heart.

### AMALGAMATED CONFERS WITH EMPLOYERS

Early this week, conferences between the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of New York and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers have begun to discuss a series of demands made by the clothing employers, involving the 70,000 persons working on men's clothing in this city.

The controversy in the men's clothing industry is of serious importance not only to the men's clothing workers, but to the ladies' garment workers as well. The Amalgamated looks upon the demands of the employers' association as an attempt to turn back the wheel of time to the unrestricted piece work system and the old chaotic conditions of the sweat shop. The demands of the employers are, in short, a proposal to return to conditions which existed in the men's tailoring industry years ago, and include piece work, the right of manufacturers to change contractors, freedom of "discipline," and the right to "hire and fire," and of a number of other "improvements" that would tend to annul all the gains that were made by the men's clothing workers during the past half a dozen years.

We confidently expect that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers will resist every attempt to lower the working standards of their men and will fight back every move to reintroduce backward trade conditions in the industry. As the Amalgamated has gone on record at its recent convention in Boston favoring standards of production, it is quite likely that such standards may be adopted at these conferences. But with a powerful, 100 per cent organization at their command, the Amalgamated should be able to impress upon their employers that the past cannot be brought back into the clothing industry no matter under what changed name or appellation.

### Impressions of the Denver Consumptive Sanatorium

By DR. GEORGE M. PRICE

Fifteen years ago about a half dozen ex-patients of the Hebrew National Sanatorium of Denver met in a little room in a Denver home to discuss the matter,—what should be done with the hundreds of unfortunate, poor consumptives who flock to Denver but who are not accepted by the Hebrew National Sanatorium because they are in rather an advanced stage of the disease and because they cannot conform with all the rules and regulations as demanded by that institution for their admission! The meeting resolved itself in a small Committee, which bodily decided that the time has come for the establishment of a new, more democratic institution for the housing and treating of Jewish consumptives throughout the country and, as a foundation for the new institution, a collection was made among the poor participants of the meeting, and a fund of \$1.29 was collected for the establishment of the new sanatorium.

This was about fifteen years ago.

The efforts of this little group have culminated in the present Jewish Consumptive Relief Society, which has at present a magnificent one hundred acre

sanatorium, with over twenty-five buildings, housing one hundred and sixty patients,—a sanatorium which may be regarded as one of the foremost institutions in the country. That the movement was based on a great need and that it was answered by the Jewish population of the whole State is shown by the fact that just lately the appeal for a new Building Fund, for the erection of a main building, which became necessary because of the burning down of one of the old buildings, has brought in within six months the staggering sum of \$250,000.

This progress,—these attainments,—have not been accomplished in a day, in a week, or in a month, nor without the strenuous efforts and prodigious work by the pioneers who still are at the head of the movement. Besides the few ex-patients that have been interested in the movement, the institution was fortunate in having from the beginning the scientific attainments, the executive abilities, and the extraordinary enthusiasm of men like Dr. Sivack, Dr. Hilkowicz, the late Dr. Zederbaum, and a host of others, who worked unselfishly and devotedly towards the building up of the institution upon a new, demo-

# At the Sessions of the International Board

II.

By S. YANOFKY

Aside from the problems of Local No. 25, the special meeting of the General Executive Board took up a series of important reports rendered by several Vice-presidents, and devoted to them a good deal of attention and consideration.

Vice President Halpern reported for the Out-of-Town Department on the organization work conducted at present among the workers in our trades outside of New York City. Vice President Halpern's report is permeated with optimism and confidence that given the necessary means, and an efficient staff, thousands upon thousands of workers in our industries in the various cities and towns around New York could be brought into the fold of our International. These unorganized workers constitute a considerable menace to the organized workers of New York City, especially in the waist and dress trades. It is true such an organizing campaign will entail a great deal of expense, Vice President Halpern stated, but if the work is conducted in a systematic way and not in the haphazard manner in which we used to rush, in the past into the small towns in the event of a general strike in New York City, leaving them afterwards to shift for themselves; that if now, in peace times, this large army of out-of-town workers will be formed into local unions, it will eventually repay the costs incurred, and is bound to have a permanent effect upon our organization.

Vice President Seidman, lately in charge of organizing work in Baltimore and vicinity, reported that the organizing campaign in that territory is fraught with great difficulties at present. That he has, nevertheless, succeeded during his brief stay in Baltimore in making considerable headway with an element regarded heretofore as unorganizable. Intensive and unbroken activity will, he asserted, eventually bring the thousands of women workers of Baltimore into the ranks of the International Union. He also reported on the recently won strike of ladies' tailors in Baltimore.

Vice President Harry Wander reported on the strike of the Division Street Salespeople. His report brought out with striking clearness the fact that the International had done everything to aid in the

eratic basis.

On a hurried visit to Denver, during my trip to the Coast, from which I have just returned, I was fortunate in having been able to visit the sanatorium of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society, and to have the opportunity to look over the institution as thoroughly as possible during the brief period I was there. The twenty five odd buildings of the institution are kept in a splendid sanitary way, the patients seem to be contented, well housed and well treated; the kitchen, which is "kosher", is scrupulously clean, the food abundant and well served. The sanatorium likewise enjoys the products of its own model farm, producing its own vegetables, getting prizes for some of its products, and owning a herd of fifty cows which furnish the milk and dairy products for all inmates of the institution. There is also a model poultry farm with

strike, but that the salespeople themselves did not rise to the standard of true union people and the strike was lost on that account.

Vice President Perlestein reported at length on the state of affairs in Cleveland. His report took up a good deal of time, not because there was any opposition displayed to the work of Brother Perlestein. On the contrary, it seemed that every member of the Board appreciated the importance of Vice President Perlestein's activities and the credit due him for converting Cleveland from a non-union cloak city into a strong union fortress. The General Executive Board, in fact, had given Vice President Perlestein some time ago, a free hand to act in Cleveland, in the matter of introducing week work, as best he knows how. The discussion, however, was provoked by the several articles published in "Justice" in which Brother Perlestein argued in detail for his plan and methods for the introduction of week work in Cleveland. It was in connection with these articles that the General Executive Board received several protests alleging that these articles tended to "confuse the minds" of workers in other cities.

Vice President Perlestein maintained that in order to succeed with his work he must make his point of view clear to all concerned, as there are still in Cleveland a number of workers and even employers who are opposed to these plans. In the course of the discussion, several of the Vice Presidents declared themselves fully in accord with Brother Perlestein. Vice President Ninfo, for instance, who was not heretofore in sympathy with the Cleveland plan, has now become one of its staunchest supporters, after having visited Cleveland a short time ago. Vice President Heller's views coincide with Ninfo's in this matter.

After a lengthy discussion, the General Executive Board decided to reaffirm its old position, and that is, that the Cleveland plan be regarded as an experiment and that this experiment, though not altogether new in our organization — it was made in the ladies' waist and dress industry in New York several years ago Secretary Baroff asserted and was not accompanied with any success —

four thousand chickens, turkeys, etc.

The new building, for which a quarter of a million dollars has been collected, is in course of construction and, when completed, the institution will be able to house two hundred and fifty inmates, making it the largest Jewish sanatorium in the country.

The splendid achievements of the sanatorium and the relatively small per capita cost of \$2.06 are chiefly due to the splendid executive abilities and the enthusiasm and devotion of the Superintendent, Dr. Marshall, a type of medical executive that is rare to find at present.

The whole spirit and conduct of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Sanatorium impressed me very favorably and convinced me that the J. C. R. S. is an institution that deserves support of all Jews and especially of the Jewish workers of the country.

might be tried out under certain circumstances and might even turn out to be a success. Vice President Perlestein, on the other hand, knows himself that this work can only be regarded in the light of an experiment, and that there can be no talk of introducing the same plan in any other city until the practical results of this experiment are apparent in Cleveland. It is upon this ground that the General Executive Board concluded that it is not advisable to conduct an agitation for or against the Cleveland plan in the columns of our press, though, of course, the Board is not opposed to the reporting of all facts that transpire in Cleveland in connection with the activities of our organization.

Vice President Schoolman of Chicago, after having reported about the various, still unsettled jurisdictional disputes in Chicago after having pointed out the necessity of appointing a special organizer in the Chicago waist, dress and skirt industry and for the corset workers, of which there are no less than 8,000 in that city, gave a general review of the situation in the cloak industry in Chicago. This situation has been far from good during the past several months. For weeks many workers have been unemployed, and this unemployment has brought about unrest and dissatisfaction. The workers are seeking new ways and means of overcoming this state of affairs which demonstrates, in an extent, the strength of the union. He further reported that the workers in Chicago are very much enthusiastic over the plan of slack-time insurance, and he expressed a wish that the General Executive Board adopt a definite attitude with regard to this problem.

His plan, in brief, is as follows: The cloak employers are to contribute to an insurance fund during the work season and while there is work in the shops, certain definite sums, and this fund is to be used as protection for the workers in times of want and slack. This plan is a new one, and it deserves careful consideration. A thorough investigation must be made, first, regarding the number of idlers in the slack period and the general degree of idleness throughout the year in each manufacturing center. We have not, heretofore, had any reliable statistical data regarding these very important features in the discussion of a proposal of that sort. To talk about the establishment of an employment insurance fund without such preliminary information, would be quite futile. Moreover, this plan, in order to be effective, must be established for the entire industry, as it cannot be a success unless it is adopted upon a national basis. The General Executive Board therefore concluded that this unemployment insurance proposal be investigated by a special committee and that this committee be instructed to present a report to the next meeting of the Board.

Among other matters, it was decided to issue the by-laws and constitution of the International in the Italian language, in response to a general demand from our Italian membership. It was also decided to establish a joint board to include the various small locals in New York. As organizer for this

joint Board, Vice President Lefkowitz, who recently returned from Europe, was tentatively appointed.

The last important matter which drew the attention of the Board was another subject connected with the reorganization of Local No. 25. A committee from the New York Pressers' Union, Local No. 35, appeared before the Board, maintaining that the pressers of Local No. 25 must not be permitted to be organized into a separate local, as according to our constitution not more than one local of one trade is allowed in one city. Consequently, they insist that as Local No. 25 is about to be reorganized, all the pressers of the waist and dress industry be transferred to Local No. 35. A committee from the Pressers' Branch of Local No. 25, on the other hand, argued that they cannot be merged, not be swallowed up by Local No. 35, that they have grown up and become organized as part of the organization of the waist and dress industry and do not want to be separated from it. They, accordingly, demanded that they be reorganized as a separate pressers' local. They pointed out that the pressing trade in the waist and dress industry is distinctly different from the pressing trade in the cloak and suit lines; and that while a cloak presser, as a rule, can work in a waist and dress shop, pressers on waist and dress cannot work at cloaks. There can not be, therefore, any talk of competition between Local No. 35 pressers and the pressers of Local No. 25, and the former are entitled to a separate local.

The contentions of both committees were very earnestly discussed by the members of the Board, and the following decision was arrived at: The General Executive Board can not permit the pressers of Local No. 25 to organize themselves into a separate local, as this would be in violation of the definite by-law of our constitution. On the other hand, the Board recognizes the validity of the assertion of the pressers of Local No. 25, that they can not be forced to join the cloak pressers' organization. Moreover, it would not be quite an advisable matter for even Local No. 35 to have such a great number of men added to its ranks against their own will. In view of these facts, it was deemed advisable that the pressers branch of Local No. 25 remain as it is, but that it have the right to send delegates to the Joint Board to be organized in the waist and dress industry.

Summarizing, the decision with reference to the entire situation amounts to the following: Local No. 25 is to be reorganized into two different locals: one local of waist makers, and another of dress makers; into a pressers' branch, and these, together with the cutters and the other smaller locals existing in the industry, form a joint board composed of delegates of each of these units.

The General Executive Board also decided to proceed as speedily as possible with the work of reorganization in the waist and dress industry in order to complete it before the expiration of the old agreement, so that the organization may be in full fighting trim for whatever emergency there might arise in the matter of the adjustment of future relations with the employers in the industry.

# Out of Town Department At Work

## Going Ahead at Newark

The meeting of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor which took place on Oct. 4th, 5th and 6th, at the Labor Lyceum, Newark, N. J., will leave a definite mark upon our organizing work in the State of New Jersey. The convention has taken up the problem of organizing the women workers in the ladies' garment trades of that State with earnestness and sincerity, and from the resolutions adopted, it can be easily seen that the entire force back of the organized labor movement in the State will be put to work to facilitate the enrollment of the women into the International Union.

Aside from the resolution for direct aid, the convention passed favorably upon a resolution for a minimum wage for women in New Jersey and pledged itself to bring all possible pressure for the enactment of a minimum wage law for women in that State. It must be kept in mind that the wage standards for working women in New Jersey are still so low that they do not suffice to buy the barest necessities of life.

Another resolution adopted was to the effect that the New Jersey State Federation of Labor demand the enactment of an eight-hour day law for women by the New Jersey Legislature. This law is of particular importance in that State because of the fact that there are in that State, New Jersey, some thousands of women, some of them mere children, who work excessive hours at machines, and these long hours are dangerous to health, retard production and are fatal to the general well-being of the next generation.

Our Newark organization was represented at that convention by a group of girls, headed by Miss Elizabeth Aldrich, International organizer. Miss Aldrich was nominated for 2nd vice-president of the Federation, but withdrew her candidacy to make place for one of the veterans in the labor movement in New Jersey whose activities on behalf of our girl workers have always been highly appreciated. Shortly after the convention, our Newark group sent out a letter to every local union affiliated with the Federation at Newark and vicinity, calling upon them to aid in the organization of the women in the garment factories and to make popular the idea of joining our local among the wives and daughters of the members of organized labor in Essex County. That letter, referring to the lack of organization among women workers as a weak link in labor's chain, proceeds to say:

"We are asking your assistance not for a strike, but for a real constructive campaign of organization. We ask every man and woman in Newark who is organized to make it a point of honor to ask, or rather insist, that the women of his or her family, his women friends and neighbors who work in factories, shall become union members and help along their brothers and sisters in the Newark movement.

"We can do it, and we intend to do it; but to do it more quickly, we need your help! Won't you help now, today? We can add greatly to the strength of organized labor in Newark if we can have this army of women."

## Steady Progress at Hackensack

Brother Nathan Weiss, the organizer of the International at Hackensack, N. J., reports steady progress and continuous growth of the local.

It can hardly be gainsaid that of all the localities where our Out-of-Town Department has recently undertaken to organize women workers, Hackensack surely takes first place as far as achievement and success is concerned. And it is due, in no small degree, to the tactful and energetic work of Brother Weiss and his assistants.

Two more shops have signed during the week with the union, conceding union hours and wages. It appears that the threat of some of the local employers to move their shops, turned out to be a mere bluff, and the local workers were made to understand this clearly at their last regular meeting on October 7th. That meeting was attended by 110 people, and these came without advance notice or advertisement. The meeting was addressed by Brother Gerassi of the Italian Chamber of Labor, who

spoke on the subject of Trade Unionism to the Italian girls present.

Meanwhile, the office of the local, at 7 Main St., keeps on enrolling new members into the local. The Hackensack organization has all the appearance of a thriving, healthy labor body, and unless all signs fail, it is bound to become one of the strongest local unions in the vicinity, with full control over working conditions in the ladies' garment shops of the city.

The meeting at Garfield, N. J., a short distance from Hackensack, where a number of women's wear shops are located, will take place the coming Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The officials of the Hackensack local will be present, and Vice President Halpern is expected to attend.

## Hard Work Ahead at Bayonne

Bayonne, N. J., a thriving industrial city within commuting distance of New Jersey, is still a hard place for organizing women workers as it was in the past,

Miss Jennie Matyas, organizer of the International for that district, reports. It is true that the indirect results of our organizing work in that territory has sent down working hours from 51 to 44 and has increased earnings from \$12 to \$25 in all the shops; nevertheless, the work of enrolling these girls who have benefited in this manner by the activities of the Union, proceeds very slowly.

Miss Matyas is at present confining her attention to the embroidery shop of the Fair Waist Co. of New York, which at one time was a union shop. This factory is now enlarging its premises, and not less than 200 machines are expected to be at work there as soon as renovations are completed. In general, there are about 1000 women garment workers in Bayonne, and a number of them work in children's dress shops. The element is composed of Italo-American women whose interests in Unionism is very hard to arouse, indeed. Miss Matyas confines her activities at present to meeting the girls at home and to distributing literature at the factories.

Our organizing center at Bayonne is located at People's Hall, Avenue C. and 25th Street.

# Doings In St. Louis

By MAX AMDUR

It is my purpose to present to you in this review and some constructive criticism of our local unions in St. Louis and relate my attempts to bring a more active spirit into the local organization, a spirit which is, in my judgment, considerably less apparent here than in any other of our local unions in the cloak trades.

I mentioned in my former correspondence that there exists here in St. Louis a Cloakmakers' and Cutters' Local. The cloakmakers' local is quite an active body and is constantly busying itself with affairs pertaining to the welfare of its members. The same, however, cannot be said with regard to the general membership. There seems to be a sharp division between the group who constitute the active workers in the local, the sense of responsibility voluntarily accepted by these and the somewhat apathetic attitude of the average member. The ordinary member of the St. Louis Cloakmakers' local has still a great deal to learn of the significance of true loyalty and genuine devotion to the organization.

Here in St. Louis is still found the old-time type of the "dusky" member, the member who believes that the union is to provide him with every protection under the sun for the few cents that he is weekly contributing to the local, or else he is ready to lose faith in the organization. For instance, I find here shops where the men cloakmakers are all union men, all carrying union cards in their pockets. In these shops, nevertheless, the skirts are made by girls, and, I am informed, that it never even occurs to the men operators that these women skirtmakers are an important part of the shop and that they too must belong to the union. Some of them openly admit their inability to understand their relationship to the girl skirt maker that sits nearby. This is a fair indicator of the spiritual poverty of the local union members, of the lack of that

sense of devotion to the union which finds expression not merely in the payment of dues, but in one's concern to see that the union idea spreads and develops among every worker in the shop and in every branch of the industry.

The situation with the cutters is somewhat similar. The fact is that all the cutters in the city belong to Local No. 16. Nevertheless, I can truly state that the St. Louis cutters have no union worth while speaking of. I had occasion to tell them at their meeting that, in my judgment, their union is being born over every other Monday night, the night of their meeting, and dies until Monday two weeks later. I am inclined to believe that their concept of unionism is even narrower than that of the average cloakmaker. They too believe that as long as they have a local union their duties and obligations are at an end. And I find it a pretty hard task to prove to them that their local amounts to very little as long as they are the only and solitary union people in their shops and the rest of the workers remain unorganized; that their influence upon the trade would be very meagre, indeed; and that the manufacturers would regard them as a negligible factor. Imagine, that even such a simple idea as this I find hard to make them see in the proper light!

And yet, let me state to you, that I am beginning to make headway even in this direction. Several cloak shops where women skirtmakers are employed, have already taken up the question of the unionizing of the girls in their shops. The cutters, too, are beginning to display more interest in the organization campaign that we are conducting here. I hope that I shall soon be able to change my former opinion regarding the indifference of the average worker in the City of St. Louis for the well-being of their fellowmen and women in the shops.

I am making headway too in

the general organization work, regardless of the unusually difficult odds that I have to contend against. I have succeeded until now in organizing several skirt shops. About 100 girls have already joined the new local union. I wish to remark in this connection that the organizing methods employed here are quite different from the methods employed in the various other organization campaigns that we have conducted in the past in other places. No mass agitation or agitation for a general strike can be thought of here at this moment. Local conditions are of a totally different character and would not permit of any such methods. I shall touch upon these special conditions in my next letter.

I have, so far, succeeded in electing an executive board from these newly enrolled girl members, and once every two weeks we have regular member meetings, which are, as a rule, fairly well attended. The girls have arranged to have a dance on Christmas Eve in order to get the workers of the trade into closer and more friendly relations with one another. We have appointed a woman organizer, Miss Julia Daller, who has been of considerable aid to me in the work that I am doing. She has the making of a very good organizer, even though her experience in that field was quite limited. She worked in a skirt shop for years, and is well known among the local women workers. Shop meetings are being called daily. The response is varied in the different shops, but the message of unionism which we have begun to spread, finds, in general, a favorable audience and this gives us courage and hope in our work.



# SEVEN WEEKS NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN.

As our members have probably read by this time, the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Protective Association delivered to the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union a Kaiser-like ultimatum on Wednesday, October 6th, commanding the union to call off all strikes in the shops of the members of the above association. They further demand that all pickets be withdrawn from the struck shops. The Union was given forty-eight hours within which to submit to the ultimatum. While the members of Local No. 10 are more or less aware of the controversy that was going on between the association and the Joint Board ever since last February, it would not be amiss to review same once more.

On January 24th, 1920, an impartial Commission formed by Governor Smith, at the request of both, the employers and the Union, rendered a decision upon the demand of the Union for an increase in wages. The increase was not as big as was sought by the Union, still the Union was satisfied. The manufacturers, on the other hand, ever since that day, were sullen and began to look for loopholes in that decision. They finally "discovered" that the increase, as granted by the Commission, was meant only for those workers who were employed in the shops at the time the decision was rendered and that the minima were not increased for all the workers in the trade at all. In other words, a cutter who was employed at that time in a shop and who received \$60 per week was entitled to the increase, while a man who for some reason or another had to seek a new position, was only entitled to the old rate of \$50 per week. The unfairness of this interpretation was obvious to every fair-minded person.

The Union proposed to the manufacturers to lay this matter once more before the Governor's Commission and to ask for a clearer interpretation of their verdict and stood ready to abide by whatever the Commission would decide. However, the Protective Association, which considers itself the "God-chosen leader" in the Cloak and Suit trade, declined the suggestion.

The Union, naturally, then proceeded to take action in every case where an employer tried to make use of the wrong interpretation of the Association, and in most instances succeeded in collecting the difference in pay for its members. In a few of the shops where the employers were obstinate, the Union was compelled to resort to strikes, and it is these strikes that the manufacturers' association has so "ordered" the Joint Board to call off.

On Friday, October 8, the Joint Board sent a reply to the manufacturers' association offering to call off the strikes and withdraw all pickets, providing the Association agreed to go once more before the Governor's Commission for an interpretation of their decision. At the time of writing, no reply was as yet received from the Association. Meanwhile they made good their threat and severed relations with the Union by refusing already to send their clerks out on complaints lodged by our members.

The strategists of the Association have probably figured that now, with the slack season ap-

proaching, the time is opportune to strike at the Union with success. However, the Joint Board and its affiliated locals are at all times ready for the combat, and if it should come to a clash, our Union will not be found unprepared. Notwithstanding all the animosity displayed in the capitalistic press these days towards unionism, we feel that when our case is presented to the world, public opinion will be on our side.

The Executive Board of Local No. 10 received a communication from the International, informing it that the first regular meeting of the newly-organized Joint Board of the Waist and Dress Industry will be held on Wednesday evening, October 13th, 1920, at the Broadway Central Hotel, and they ask us to elect five representatives to that body. The following were elected:

Brothers Joseph Fish, Hyman Goldberg, Philip Oretsky, Harry Beilin and Sam Sadowsky.

Let us hope that our delegation in conjunction with those from the other locals in the Waist and Dress trade will succeed in building up a powerful organization with which all the manufacturers in this industry will have to reckon.

Another communication was received from the International, informing us of the campaign of the Socialist Party conducted in the City of New York, and particularly the campaign for the election of Comrades Morris Hillquit and Meyer London to Congress in the 20th and 12th Congressional Districts, respectively. The Executive Board decided to appeal to our members to give their best support in this very important election. We have no doubt but that our members, as in former years, will contribute their share, both financially and morally, in helping the cause of Socialism.

The following are extracts from the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

Nat. Durlister, No. 5392 appeared on summons, charged with working on Sunday, September 12th, at Spiegel & Son, 61 West 27th Street. On motion a fine was imposed.

Morris Tishenbaum, No. 5352A, appeared on summons, charged with being in the dress business for himself under the firm name of Hirschler & Tishenbaum, 23 East 20th Street, also, with lending his book to Sam Sklar, 136 Avenue C. On motion a fine was imposed.

Sam Sklar appeared requesting permission to join the union. On motion his request was granted, providing he can pass an examination.

Spencer Vogel, No. 5947A, appeared on summons, charged by the office with having agreed to work for \$40 per week in the shop of the J. P. Dress Co., 133 West 27th Street, and with having worked there for four weeks below the scale. On motion a fine was imposed.

Samuel Morris, No. 9952 appeared on summons, charged with working on Saturday and Sunday at the firm of Goodman, 39 West 9th Street. On motion a fine was imposed.

On Friday last, October 8th, there was held the first meeting of business agents of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union in connection with the educational work of the International.

The significance of this meeting lay in the fact that the business agents of the Union have gathered on this occasion not merely for the purpose of discussing their own personal educational wants, but principally in order to aid—as the more intelligent and active element in the organization, as men whose wider experience and long contact with the masses of our workers has given them a deeper insight into their state of mind and general attitude toward adult education—in the work of arousing the interest of these masses in the various courses and lectures that we have organized for their benefit.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Alexander Fichandler, head of our educational office, and Miss F. M. Cohn, secretary. A decision was adopted making it binding upon all business agents and all other officers to devote part of the time at each shop meeting, particularly those held in public schools, to the subject of labor education. In other words, it was decided to make labor education part of the order of the day at every gathering of workers in our trades, no matter how small. At these discussions efforts will be made to have every eligible worker register for the educational courses and lectures, giving especial stress on the organizing of groups.

A committee of three, consisting of Brothers Mazur, Hines and Schuster, was appointed to work out the plan for the courses to be delivered for the benefit of the business agents themselves on Friday and Saturday afternoons. The experience of the past two years has proven that the officers of the Cloakmakers' Union are eager for learning, and the Friday afternoon course for the business agents was one of the most successful features of our work. This year an even more attractive course has been arranged, and practically every one of the officers has registered for it.

The group of Local 9, 70 strong, has met last Saturday afternoon at the offices of the local at 228 Second Avenue, and decided upon the following two sets of lectures for the season: "History and Problems of the Labor Movement in U. S. and England", and "History and Problems of our Union."

Local No. 10, the Cutters' Union, does not expect to be excelled in any way, in the matter of education, by any of its sister locals in the city of New York.

The idea of group education which was taken up so enthusiastically by members of Local No. 9 has found a strong following among the cutters, and already a nucleus of such a group has been formed. This group is bound to grow by leaps and bounds as anyone who is familiar with the membership of Local No. 10 will not hesitate to forecast.

We are presenting herewith to the attention of the readers of *Justice* the two lectures to be delivered by David J. Sapos, formerly of the Faculty of the University by Wisconsin. One is entitled "American Trade Union Types" and is a critical and comparative discussion of the various

types of trade unions in the United States in regard to their form and structure, function, policy, social point of view; a discussion of the social forces influencing the formation of each type, such as technical developments, markets, financial control, leadership; vesting the efficiency of each type in serving the present needs and future aspirations of the workers.

The other treatise of the "Immigrant in the Labor Movement" and is a historical account of the part the different groups of immigration play in the American labor movement; the contributions of recent immigrants as individuals and masses to the labor movement; special attention will be given to the Irish, Germans, Jews, Finns, Italians and Slavs; immigrant leadership will be contrasted with American leadership; the influence of immigrants upon new developments in the labor movement will be discussed as well as such special problems as, "What kind of unionist does the immigrant make? attitude of native unionists toward immigrant workers; the I. W. O., and immigrant groups, attempts at self-adaptation."

It would, indeed, be a surprise should our members fail to take advantage of these lectures by Dr. Sapos, which touch upon the most interesting phases of our movement and the problems connected with our every day life.

The opening celebration of the Workers' University has been definitely settled, through the courtesy of the authorities at the Washington Irving High School, for Saturday, November 13th. A concert of unusually high calibre has been arranged for, and Prof. Beard and Dr. Dana have accepted invitations to come to this opening celebration and to speak to our students.

The complete schedules for the Workers' University will be ready for announcement next week when the regular registration will begin.

For the benefit of the members of the International we wish to announce that we will be able to procure tickets — not more than two each — for the ten Sunday concerts to be given by the National Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall beginning October 24, and for the Madison Square Garden, Sunday night concerts, at reduced rates. By special arrangement our members will be entitled to a reduction of 15 per cent on single tickets and 20 per cent on tickets for the entire series of either of these concerts. Some of the most celebrated virtuosos, including Fritz Kreisler and Toscha Seidel, are to appear at these concerts.

## TICKETS FOR VERTCHAMP RECITAL AND OTHER MUSICAL TREATS AT REDUCED PRICES

Local 25, Ladies Waist and Dress Makers' Union, can offer to its members and members of the International, tickets at reduced prices for the following:

1. Sunday evening concerts at the Lexington Theatre.

2. Recital of Albert Vertcham, violinist, at Carnegie Hall, November 17th.

Mr. Vertcham is well known to most of our members. Only last Saturday night he volunteered his services for the opening celebration of Local 25 held at 314 East 20th Street.

## Local 25 Announces Plans for Unity Center

**Economics-Labor History**  
Local 25 has been fortunate in securing as a teacher of Economics for its Unity Center at P. S. 40, 314 East 20th Street, Mr. David J. Saposs. Mr. Saposs is well known in labor circles as a co-author of "History of Labor in the United States," as one of the investigators in the Inter-Church Survey of the Steel Strike, and as one of the members of the Labor Research Bureau. Besides this, he has made an extensive study of immigration. His experience as a teacher of economics was gained at the University of Wisconsin.

The class in economics will probably meet on Monday or Tuesday evenings from 8.45 to 10. Classes will begin shortly after Election Day.

### Gymnasium

The recreation classes will open on October 21st and classes will meet at 6.30 Thursday evening.

### Lectures

The lecture season at the 20th Street School will begin shortly after Election Day with a series of lectures on the Appreciation of Music by Dr. Herman Epstein whom most of our members know. These lectures will be accompanied by a soloist of ability.

### English Classes

Classes in English have been going on for the past three weeks. Mr. Davidoff's class in high school English meets in Room 308, and all registrants may see him about his class and the elementary and intermediate classes.

## PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION PROVOKES DISPUTE WITH NEW YORK CLOAK MAKERS' UNION

(Continued from Page 1)

atum to the Union has called forth a feeling of deep resentment among the masses of cloakmakers, a spirit which was strongly manifested at the meeting of shop-chairmen held last Saturday afternoon. At the meeting of the Joint Board on Saturday night the entire situation, including the fact that the Association has instructed its clerks not to go out settling complaints with the business agents of the Union, was thoroughly reviewed by Brother Feinberg, the general manager of the Joint Board, and the state of mind of the delegates present was aptly summed up by Vice President Sigman who stated: "The leaders of the Association might have known by this time that they cannot overawe the International and the Cloakmakers' Union by ultimatums and they might have discovered a more civil method of settling disputes with the Union. We are, however, ready to meet all their attacks."

At the time of this writing the Union has received no reply from the Association yet and is still in a position of "watchful waiting."

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNER-SHIP, Management, Circulation, etc.** required by the Act of Congress of August 14, 1913, of Justice published weekly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1920.

State of New York  
County of New York ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Elias Lieberman, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Justice and that the following is to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc. of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 14, 1913, embodied in section 462, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are: Publishers: International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.  
Editor: S. Yanovsky, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.  
Managing Editor: None.

Business Manager: Elias Lieberman, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.

2. That the owners are: The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.; H. Schlesinger, President, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.; A. Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer, 31 Union Sq., New York, N. Y. An association not incorporated, consisting of about 120,000 members.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

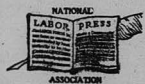
4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of Sept., 1920.

(Seal)

Max Kraftschick.

(My commission expires October 1, 1920)



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## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

WAIST AND DRESS:

Monday, October 18th.

GENERAL:

Monday, October 26th.

CLOAK AND SUIT:

Monday, Nov. 2nd.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

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### Attention of Dress and Waist Cutters!

THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

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105 Madison Ave.  
Son & Ash,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Solomon & Mettler,  
33 East 32nd St.  
Clairmont Waist Co.,  
15 West 36th St.  
Mack Kanner & Milins,  
136 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
83 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Drezwall Dress Co.,  
14 East 32nd St.  
Regina Kobler,  
352 Fourth Ave.  
Deutz & Ortenberg,  
2-16 West 33rd St.  
J. & M. Cohen,  
6-10 E. 32nd Street.  
West Point Waist,  
119 W. 24th St.

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